



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

MARCH 6, 2014

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM BRADDOCK DISTRICT  
SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK

# The BRADDOCK BEACON

703-425-9300 [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/) [Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE RELEASES 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

On January 25, the County Executive presented his proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Advertised Budget Plan to the Board of Supervisors. Over the next six weeks, the Board will be discussing this plan with the community. It is very early in the process, and Supervisor Cook is looking forward to working with all residents to create and pass a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of Fairfax County.

### Here are the basic budget facts:

The County Executive's proposed budget is balanced and does not increase the tax rate, which remains at the current rate of \$1.085 per \$100 of valuation. Assessments have increased about 6.5 percent in the County and a little over 7 percent in Braddock District. So, while the tax rate has not increased, the average County homeowner would pay \$331.67 more in property taxes under the County Executive's proposal.

Commercial growth, however, is stagnant and sales tax revenue has dropped so despite increasing residential assessments, total County revenue has only increased by 3.44 percent in this budget. This figure is slightly higher than the rate of inflation plus population growth.

This budget supports Fairfax County Public Schools by increasing funding \$34 million (2 percent) over last year. This doesn't completely meet the funding request from the School Board. Fairfax County Public Schools are funded with a combination of State and County money. The County's proposed increase of \$34 million for schools combined with approximately \$30 million of additional state revenue leaves the School Board \$34 million short of their requested \$98 million in additional funding.

At the March 4 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Cook directing the County Executive to identify \$15-\$20 million in potential

cuts to County spending in the proposed FY 2015 budget. These potential cuts could be used to meet some of the funding requests of the School Board, instead of funding the requests by increasing the tax rate.

Supervisor Cook's motion was attached to the motion of the Chair to approve an advertised tax rate which was set at an increase of two cents per \$100 of assessed real estate value. The advertised tax rate is NOT the final tax rate but is the ceiling placed for purposes of public comment for the FY 2015 budget. The final tax rate will be set when the budget is passed in April. By law, the final rate may not be higher than the advertised rate, but it may be lower.

Supervisor Cook stated he would not vote to advertise the higher tax rate without the directive to identify potential spending cuts. With the approval of his amendment, Supervisor Cook reluctantly agreed to advertise the higher rate for discussion purposes.

"It is my hope that the Board of Supervisors and the School Board can sit together and have meaningful conversations as we seek to resolve difficult budget issues," said Supervisor Cook. "I am not convinced that we should raise the tax rate, but at the start of the dialogue all options should be on the table."

**Supervisor Cook will be hosting  
two town hall meetings to discuss  
these issues with the community:**

**March 12**

**Braddock District Council Meeting  
7:30 p.m. | Kings Park Library**

**April 1**

**with Braddock School Board Member  
Megan McLaughlin | 7:30 p.m.  
Robinson Secondary School**

You can reach the Supervisor's office at 703-425-9300 or [braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov).



**Supervisor John C. Cook**

### ATTENTION HOMEOWNER AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS:

Let us know about your successful Community Engagement efforts! You're doing great work! Please call (703) 425-9300 or email Ann Sharp at [ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov) with your latest information.

### THE BRADDOCK BEACON VIA EMAIL

To get the Braddock Beacon and Cook Advisory electronically, please send an email to [braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov) with the subject line "BEACON."



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## REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION

Homeowners across the County have begun receiving their 2014 Tax Assessments. Overall, property values in the County have been on the rise, averaging about 6.5 percent growth County-wide. In Braddock District tax assessments outpaced the County average with a gain of a little over 7 percent.



This gain in property values means the average County homeowner would pay \$331.67 more in property taxes if the County tax rate were to stay the same.

Communities in Braddock that saw the largest increase in their tax assessments based on real estate values were Briarwood Court and Ivymount Condos at 27 percent, Heritage Wood North Condos at 25 percent, and Point Lake Braddock at 25 percent.

Communities in Braddock that saw their tax assessment decrease based on home values were Somerset South which fell by an average of 6.77 percent, Fairfax Gateway which fell by an average of 3.65 percent, and Fairwood Acres and Burke Hills which fell by an average of 3 percent.

## FY 2015 Budget Public Hearings

**Tuesday, April 8, at 6 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, April 9, at 3 p.m.**  
**Thursday, April 10, at 3 p.m.**

To speak at a public hearing, sign up [online](#) or contact the Office of the Clerk to the Board at 703-324-3151. The public hearings will be held in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, and will be televised live on Fairfax County Government Channel 16.

## IFC CO-CHAIRMAN COOK PRESENTS REPORT TO BOARD

Supervisor Cook presented the final report of the Infrastructure Financing Committee (IFC) at the March 4 meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The IFC is a joint committee of the Board of Supervisors and the School Board, and Supervisor Cook was selected by Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova to co-Chair the committee.

The report has a number of recommendations to address capital funding issues facing the County and school system. The changes will help renovation projects move through the queue more quickly, such as the long overdue project at West Springfield High School.

While the report has not been formally adopted by either Board, the recommendations have been presented and will be further discussed at a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisor and the School Board in March.

For more information and to read the report, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/infrastructure-financing-committee.htm>

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week."

In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month."

Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."

Is your civic group or church doing something in recognition of Women's History Month? Let us know – we can help spread the word!



## SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On **February 1st**, Supervisor Cook joined two Asian American New Year Celebrations. First, he went to Lunar New Year Celebration at the Woo Lae Oak restaurant in Vienna. This event was sponsored by the Korean American Senior Service Association. Next, he went to Luther Jackson Middle School for a Chinese New Year Festival which kicked off the Year of the Horse.



On **February 4th**, Supervisor Cook attended in the Central Fairfax Chamber Economic Development Summit which was held at the Country Club of Fairfax.

On **February 5th**, Supervisor Cook addressed the annual meeting of the North Springfield Civic Association which was held at North Springfield Elementary School.

On **February 6th**, Supervisor Cook traveled to Richmond to attend meetings of two of the regional boards on which he serves. First was the Northern Virginia Regional Commission where he serves as the Chair of their Legislative Committee. Afterward, he attended the meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission.

On **February 9th**, Supervisor Cook rolled up his sleeve and donated blood for the 5th annual Friends of Sadie Valentines Blood Drive which was held at the Woods Community Center in Burke.

On **February 12th**, Supervisor Cook attended another Lunar New Year Celebration, this time at the Little River Glen Senior Center in Fairfax.

On **February 18th**, Supervisor Cook attended the Leadership Fairfax Board of Supervisors Breakfast which was held at the Hyatt Regency of Fair Lakes.

On **February 19th**, Supervisor Cook hosted a community meeting on the upcoming project to widen Braddock Road. More on this meeting can be found on page 5 in this issue of the Beacon.

On **February 20th**, Supervisor Cook addressed the members of the Cardinal Forest Elementary School PTSA.

On **February 24th**, Supervisor Cook was present for one of FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza's Budget Listening Tours. This one was held at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

On **February 26th**, Supervisor Cook took part in one of the quarterly University/Community Forum meetings at the Fairfax City Hall. The Forum looks at and addresses issues in and around George Mason University.



On **February 27th**, Supervisor Cook was honored to go to the Pinn Center in Fairfax and participate in a lunch honoring the Ladies of Little Zion Baptist Church/Pearson Colored School. Besides presenting a plaque to the Church, Supervisor Cook also recognized those members who recently celebrated birthdays of over 90 years.



On **February 28th**, Supervisor Cook was at the Government Center to present the award for an art contest for Teen Dating Violence Awareness which was sponsored by the Domestic Violence Action Center.

## HUMAN SERVICES CORNER

### Senior Services

#### **Boomers & Older Adults: Venture into Volunteering Fair**

Don't miss the Venture into Volunteering Fair on Thursday, March 27, 10 a.m. to noon at Frying Pan Park Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Agency reps will be on hand to discuss a wide range of community outreach opportunities including helping kids with homework, meals on wheels and serving as a court-appointed advocate. No registration. Call 703-704-6075, TTY 711 for information and reasonable accommodations.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean needs a certified volunteer Zumba Instructor to teach a class on Friday afternoons. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).
- Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).
- Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Fairfax, Reston, McLean and Falls Church. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).

#### **A Conversation on the County's Fairfax 50+ Planning**

Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity and Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Director Sharon Lynn discuss the county's planning process for a more aging-friendly community in this episode of Channel 16's Mature Living.

The process was launched last summer with community forums throughout the county. A group of community members and county staff is now preparing recommendations for the Board of Supervisors based on the ideas expressed by residents. The program includes a discussion with members of this group including Commission on Aging Representative Rich Chobot, Sue Richey, Richey Property Management, and John Payne, deputy director of Housing and Community Development.

#### **Medicare Enrollment**

If you did not enroll in Medicare during your Initial Enrollment Period, which occurs when you initially become eligible for Medicare, you have another chance each year to enroll. It's called the General Enrollment Period and it lasts from January 1 through March 31. Your coverage begins the following July. However, your monthly premium increases 10 percent for each 12-month period you were eligible for, but did not enroll in, Medicare Part B. People 65 or older and covered under a group health plan, either from their own or their spouse's current employment, have a Special Enrollment Period in which to sign up for Medicare Part B. This means that you may delay enrolling in Part B without having to wait for a General Enrollment Period or paying the cumulative 10 percent premium surcharge for late enrollment. For more information visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/vicap.htm>

### March is Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Inclusion Month

The Board of Supervisors designated March as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Inclusion Month in Fairfax County. What should you do? If you are a person with I/DD or know someone who has I/DD, simply make plans to go out somewhere in public on Saturday, March 29. That's all. Just plan a day out and about enjoying the things you like to do, and, in the process help raise awareness and generate some conversation about people with I/DD during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This one-day movement will serve to harness our collective power to gain allies, foster understanding, dispel myths and encourage a greater understanding among people without a disability.

### Family Services

#### **John Hudson Internship Program Now Accepting Applications**

The John Hudson Internship Program is an internship program in Fairfax County Government for college students and recent graduates with disabilities. For more information, please contact Jill Clark at [Jill.Clark@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Jill.Clark@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-5874, TTY 711. Application Materials Due on April 13, 2014

#### **Crisis Assistance**

The Crisis Assistance program helps households in emergency situations by providing primary heat security deposits and funding the repair or replacement of heating equipment. The application period began Friday, November 1, 2013 and closes on Monday, March 17, 2014. For more information, visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.cgi>

#### **George Mason has shuttle from the Burke VRE to GMU**

Mason Shuttles operates several different shuttles (links to shuttle at left) providing free service to Mason students and employees. This new option is an exciting alternative to hunting and paying for parking at GMU. Parking is free at Burke VRE. Here is the link for the schedule. <http://shuttle.gmu.edu/burkevire.html>

#### **Burke Lake Park**

The Junior Golf program is tailored for students ages 8 to 17 and is offered at all Park Authority golf courses. Annual membership is \$20, which entitles members to discounted greens, range and tournament fees and access to free golf clinics at all Park Authority golf courses. The clinics are taught by USGA and PGA golf professionals and cover all aspects of the game. For more information: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/quicktakes/>



## ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

### Tree Committee Award Nominations Open

The Tree Commission is looking for nominations for the upcoming **Friends of Trees Award**. Individuals, projects or programs may be nominated. Awards will be presented at this year's Springfest in April, but the deadline to submit nominations is March 28. Individuals must have demonstrated conservation-based actions in preserving, protecting or planting trees. If you would like to nominate someone, you can find the form at: <http://1.usa.gov/1kpZlB1> and email it to [treemail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:treemail@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### The Conservation District's Annual Seedling Sale Accepting Orders

The Soil and Conservation District is now accepting orders for its annual native tree and shrub seedling sale. This year's species were chosen to provide beauty for your yard and habitat for our native bee populations. Colony collapse disorder and habitat loss have taken their toll on bees, but native bees and other insect pollinators still contribute over \$50 billion in ecological services to the United States annually. There are two packages available: 10 bare-root shrubs and small trees for \$16.95 or bare-root larger trees for \$11.95. Order forms are available at: [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale\\_14.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale_14.pdf) and can be picked up the first week of May.

### Reminder: Sign up Now for the 26th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup!

The Alice Ferguson Foundation's Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup is the region's largest litter cleanup event and a great way for people to get more involved in the environmental health of their community. Fairfax County typically has anywhere from 75 to 100 cleanup sites, the most in the region! Let's not rest on our laurels: cleanups will be held from March 20 to April 31st, with most occurring on the cleanup's main day of April 5. Sign up to volunteer at an event, or better yet, register your own cleanup and grab a few friends and neighbors to help at: [http://fergusonfoundation.org/events\\_list/](http://fergusonfoundation.org/events_list/)



## BRADDOCK ROAD WIDENING COMMUNITY MEETING

Community members enthusiastically turned out to February's meeting to discuss County consideration of widening Braddock Road. At the February 19 meeting, Supervisor Cook and representatives from the County outlined the project, collected public feedback, and introduced a citizen's committee integral to the planning.

Supervisor Cook is seeking extensive citizen input as the County undertakes the study to consider widening Braddock Road and adding HOV lanes from Burke Lake Road to the Beltway. County plans potentially include a transit center behind the Kings Park Shopping Center and possible widening of Braddock Road from Guinea to Burke Lake.

Fairfax County Department of Transportation Director Tom Biesiadny, Chief of Capital Projects & Operations Division, Eric Teitelman, and Transportation Planner Michael Guarino presented at the meeting.

At this meeting a community involvement team was announced including representatives from the communities of Kings Park, Long Branch, Red Fox Forest, Canterbury Woods, Stone Haven, Ravensworth Farm, Carrleigh, The Elms, Dunleigh, Danbury Forest, The Townes of Wakefield, and Park Glen. You can find the Committee's work at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/braddockroad.htm>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February 8 – May 4, Trout Fishing

One thousand pounds of rainbow trout and two hundred pounds of golden trout will soon be swimming in the cold waters at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston, Va. Fishermen who enjoy catching these tasty fish are invited to participate in the 2014 trout season which runs February 8 through May 4, 2014. This 20-acre lake will be restocked five times during the spring season by Cast-a-line of Goshen, Va. (The day of the week may vary.)

### March 13, Spring Burke Centre Used Book Sale

Time: 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. | Location: Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke | Don't miss this annual sale of 8,000 books representing all genres plus DVDs, CDs, audio books and more.

### March 11, Turf Management for Urban Gardeners

Time: 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | Location: Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington 22206 | Dr. Mike Goatley, Turfgrass Extension Specialist and Professor of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech, will talk about turfgrass selection for our area, specific springtime turf management practices, nutrient management and soil testing, and basic pest and disease management. Registration is requested: 703-228-6414 or mgarlalex@gmail.com.

### March 15, Parks & Stream Clean Up - Middleridge Park and Woodglen Lake Park

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Location: Meet at Middleridge Park. Park entrance is opposite Clara Barton Court. GPS Coordinates: 38.808012,-77.321455. Supplies Needed: water bottle, and shoes/boots you don't mind getting muddy. We will provide garbage bags and work gloves (adult size only). Contact: Sarah Mayhew, Project Leader, at 703-582-7374. Student community service hours available for this project.

### March 15 & March 22, Vegetable Gardening 101

Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Locations: March 15 - Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria | March 22 - Arlington Central Library, 1014 N. Quincy St., Arlington | VCE Master Gardeners and Horticultural Agent Kirsten Buhls will guide participants through the basics of seed starting, soil preparation, and when and where to plant. Registration is requested: 703-228-6414 or mgarlalex@gmail.com

### March 17 and 18, AARP 2-Day Driver Safety Class

Time: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Location: Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, 10520 Judicial Dr., Fairfax | Class costs \$12/AARP members, \$14/non-members (bring AARP card) | Register: Call Shawna Wood at 703-246-4495 or email shawna.wood@fairfaxcounty.gov

### March 18, Studying Genealogy: A Personalized Approach

Time: 1 p.m. | Location: Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Rd., Alexandria | The Mount Vernon Genealogical Society

will present "Studying Genealogy: A Personalized Approach" by Angela Packer Mcghee. Participants will devise an individual plan to study locations where their ancestors lived, and records, techniques to enhance their research. | Call Karen Jenkins at 703-866-2478

### March 22, The City of Fairfax Young at Heart Senior Center Sixth Annual Appraisal Event

Time: 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Location: Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy., Fairfax | Bring a keepsake or something valuable and let professional appraisers determine if it's a treasure. \$5 admission includes one item for verbal appraisal. Additional items are \$3 each. Call Anne Chase, 703-273-6090

### March 22, Rain Barrel Sale

Time: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Location: Falls Church Property Yard | 7100 Gordons Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043 | The Northern Virginia Rain Barrel Program is a consortium of local governments and non-profits that offer rain barrels to the public at discounted rates. The rain barrels are repurposed pickle and pepper barrels that attach to the end of your home's downspouts and store 55 gallons of rainwater for re-use. Each barrel is \$65, and you can order as many as you like. Please reserve your barrels early at: <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/be-green/live-green/barrel/>

### March 22, Car Seat Inspection

Time: 8 a.m. – Noon | Location: Fairfax County Public Safety Center Public Parking Garage - Level B1 (down one level from entrance) 10550 Page Avenue, Fairfax, VA | If there is snow, ice or frigid temperatures, please call to make sure the event has not been cancelled: 571-238-6153.

## Nutrition Month

Supervisor Cook hosts a monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16 which is available on most cable networks. Each month, Supervisor Cook invites topical guests on to share pertinent and informative items with the viewers.

This month's show is on National Nutrition Month and features **Mary Porter from Real Food For Kids and Julie Knight from Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax**. This yearly campaign focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. Nowhere is this more important than with our children.

The shows air throughout the month and can be seen Sundays at 5pm, Wednesdays at 7pm and Fridays at 5pm.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Tax Relief Workshops

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is hosting a series of free tax relief workshops in March at several locations throughout the county. Real estate tax relief is available for older adults and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications; you also may be eligible for car tax relief and tax relief for renters.

County Staff from the Department of Tax Administration (DTA) will be at the location listed below to assist with filling out the application form, as well as answering questions. The schedule is by district and you may contact our office for more information on a workshop.

#### Braddock District Tax Relief Workshops

March 7 and March 25  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Kings Park Library  
Burke Lake Road Burke

### Neighbors Helping Neighbors: The Village Movement!

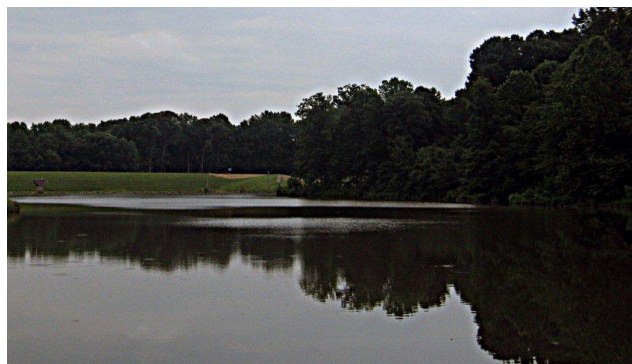
The Braddock District Council's Village meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Many folks wish to age in their homes and live in their community longer here in the Braddock District and throughout the County. Aging in place can become difficult, expensive as the need for various levels of support increases.

Some of the communities presenting are: Reston Useful Services Exchange, McLean's A Village for All Ages, Mount Vernon at Home, and Crownleigh. Each will provide insight into what inspired them to begin, how they started and what types of activities and services they provide.

Come out and join us for a free light dinner, a great program and the enjoyment of meeting others who are trying to answer the same questions for themselves and their families make this forum a great way to spend an evening - Wednesday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the Kings Park Library Meeting Room.

## LAKE BARTON NAMED MOST IMPROVED DAM

The Virginia Lake and Watersheds Association (VLWA) named Lake Barton Virginia's most improved dam. The honor will be awarded by VLWA at its annual conference on March 25, 2014. This project received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding through the Department of Agriculture (USDA), and was a under a strict timeline for design and construction, which was successfully met. The facility received a regular 6-year Operation and Maintenance (O&M) certificate from DCR last year.



## RECYCLE TELEVISIONS, COMPUTERS AND OTHER DEVICES

Fairfax County residents can recycle televisions, computers and peripheral devices – including keyboards, speakers, printers, external drives and other such materials – and unbroken fluorescent light bulbs and tubes on Electric Sundays. There is No Charge for Fairfax County residents to participate in Electric Sunday; however, you may be required to show proof of residency. The next event is on March 23 at the I-95 Complex at 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton 22079.